

MEMORIAL

Of the citizens of Missouri Territory.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the Territory of Missouri, respectfully sheweth:

That your petitioners live within that part of the Territory of Missouri which lies between the latitudes 36 degrees 30 minutes, & 40 degrees North, and between the Mississippi river to the East and the Osage boundary line to the West. They pray that they may be admitted into the Union of the states within these limits.

They conceive that their numbers entitle them to the benefits and to the rank of a state government. Taking the progressive increase during former years, as the basis of the calculation, they estimate their present numbers at upwards of 40,000 souls. Tennessee, Ohio, and the Mississippi state were admitted with smaller

2. That the veto of the territorial executive is absolute upon the acts of the territorial legislature.

3. That the superior court is constructed on principles unheard of in any other system of jurisprudence, having primary cognizance of almost every controversy, civil and criminal, and subject to correction by no other tribunal !!!

4. That the powers of the territorial legislature are limited in the passage of laws of a local nature, owing to the paramount authority of Congress to legislate upon the same subject.

The boundaries which they solicit for the future state, they believe to be the most reasonable and proper that can be devised. The southern limit will be an extension of the line that divides Virginia and North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. The northern will correspond nearly with the north limit of the territory of Illinois and with the Indian boundary line, near the mouth of the River like

They will make the Missouri River the centre, and not the boundary of the state.

Your petitioners deprecate the idea of making the civil divisions of the states to correspond with the natural divisions of the country. Such divisions will promote that tendency to separate, which it is the policy of the Union to counteract.

The above described boundaries are adapted to the localities of the country.

The woodland districts are found towards the great rivers. The interior is composed of vast regions of naked and sterile plains, stretching to the Shining Mountains. The states must have large fronts upon the Mis-

guarantees this great privilege to your petitioners as soon as it can be granted under the principles of the Federal Constitution. They have passed eight years in the first grade of territorial government, five in the second; they have evinced their attachment to the honour and integrity of the Union during the late war, and they, with deference, urge their right to become a member of the great Republic.

They forbear to dilate upon the evils of the territorial government, but will barely name, among the grievances of this condition—

1. That they have no vote in your honourable body, and yet are subject to the indirect taxes imposed by you.

degrees upon the Mississippi will be left to the South, to form the territory of Arkansas, with the River Arkansas traversing its centre. A front of three & a half degrees more, upon a medium depth of 200 miles, with the Missouri River in the centre, will form the State of Missouri. Another front of equal extent, embracing the great River St. Pierre, will remain above, to form another state, at some future day.

The boundaries, as solicited, will include all the country to the north and west to which the Indian title has been extinguished.

They will include the body of the population.

being carried into these deserts.—

Besides, the country north & south of the Missouri is necessary each to the other, the former possessing a rich soil destitute of minerals, the latter abounding in mines of lead and iron, and thinly sprinkled with spots of ground fit for cultivation.

Your petitioners hope that their voice may have some weight in the division of their own country, and in the formation of their state boundaries; and that statesmen, ignorant of its localities, may not undertake to cut up their territory with fanciful divisions which may look handsome on paper, but must be ruinous in effect.

And your petitioners will pray, &c.

G. HALL, PRINTER, ST. LOUIS.

Isaac M. Rainey
Samuel Williams
H. C. Priddy
John Williams
William Paul
H. Brown

Louis Vallé
Benoit Vallé
Sagay Vallé Jr.
Jesse Scott
H. Brown
L. J. Jones

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Sam^l S Williams
Robt C. Bruffey
Justinian Williams
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W Brown

Louis Vallé'
Benoit Vallé'
John Vallé' Jr
James Scott
B D Bowmer
Jn Rice Jones